

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 7, 10-12 and 22 are amended herein. No new matter is presented and entry and approval are requested.

Claims 1, 4-7, 10-13, 16-18, 21-22 and 24 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

Regarding Allowable Subject Matter

In item 5 of the Office Action in the section entitled "Allowable Subject Matter," the Examiner asserts:

Claims 1, 4-6 and 21 are allowed. Claims 7, 10-13, 16-18, 22 and 24 contain allowable subject matter, but are rejected above for reasons other than prior art.

(See, Office Action at page 4, lines 7-8).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13, 16-18, and 24 should also be indicated as allowed.

In the section entitled "Response to Arguments," the Examiner asserts:

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 13, 16-18 and 24 are persuasive. Therefore, the rejections of claims 13, 16-18 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §101 are withdrawn.

(See, Office Action at page 2, lines 8-9).

In addition, the present Office Action includes no rejections of claims 13, 16-18, and 24.

In addition, the Examiner addresses the reasons for allowing claims 13, 16-18, and 24 in the section entitled "Allowable Subject Matter." (See, Office Action at pages 6-7).

In addition, the Office Action Summary includes claims 13, 16-18, and 24 in the list of claims that are allowed.

Thus, if claims 13-16-18 and 24 are not allowed, Applicants submit that a new Office Action with response date appropriately reset should be issued detailing reasons for the same.

Traverse of rejection of claims 7-10-12 and 22

In items 3-4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejects claims 7, 10-12, and 22 under 35 USC 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 7 is amended herein to recite a method "of an apparatus for processing image data comprising: . . . embedding, using a processor, a code into the pair of blocks of the image data, by changing at least one of the extracted two feature indices of the first color component of the pair of the blocks based on a magnitude relationship between the extracted two feature indices of the second color component of the pair of blocks and a value determined by at least one of the extracted two feature indices of the second color component." (emphasis added).

Claim 22 is amended herein to recite a method of "an embedding unit that is included in an image data processing apparatus for embedding a code into an image, comprising: . . .

the embedding includes embedding the code into the pair of blocks of the image data, by changing at least one of the extracted two feature indices of the first color component of the pair of the blocks based on a magnitude relationship between the extracted two feature indices of the second color component of the pair of blocks and a value determined by at least one of the extracted two feature indices of the second color component." (Emphasis added).

Applicants submit that claims 7 (dependent claims 10-12) and 22, as amended herein, are tied to a particular apparatus.

Further, Applicants assert that the apparatus transforms blocks that were uncoded to blocks that have an embedded code.

Applicants submit that the Examiner's concerns are addressed and that claims 7 (and claims 10-12 that depend from 7) and claim 22 comply with 35 U.S.C. §101.

Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: August 25, 2010

By: Paul W. Bobowiec
Paul W. Bobowiec
Registration No. 47,431

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501